



The Spectacle

From the Office with the Doors Closed

Kendell is gone for a few days. He's out in Yellowstone attending the wedding of our beloved former curator, Colleen Curry. Yes, Colleen is getting married to someone she met out there in God's country, and she will no doubt ride off into the sunset and live happily ever after.

Anyway, I'm pinch hitting for Kendell this issue. I want to take the time to thank everyone for making the Open House a great success. Thanks to Keith Drews and Karen Kinzey for doing the text and illustrations for the exhibit panels; thanks also to Karen for writing up a brief synopsis of the families' activities during the John Brown raid. I'd like to thank Matt Penrod for handling the overall coordination of the evening; Dottie Carns for supervising the house; Delphine Gross for supervising the activities around the quarters; Mary Troy and Mark Jones for getting the house ready for the evening; Malcolm Willoughby, David Wilson, Terry Talford, Tim Marshall, Jan-Joseph Suchodolski, and Tinaudra Foster for handling maintenance traffic and parking; to Andrew Tremel for working on the grounds and in the house; and last, but never least,



The Gilmore Light Ensemble in White Parlor
(photo by Kathie Lipovac)



Arlington House on the night of October 8, 2004 (photo by Kathie Lipovac)

Mary Ratiff for taking the reservations, stuffing the envelopes, and doing the unheralded job of keeping an eye on the OAB during the event. It was good to see Keena Graham, Mary Leonard, Betty Soltani, and Becca Withers again, and their assistance was greatly appreciated. I hope everyone had a chance to see the re-enactors with their U. S. Marines display, and to listen to the excellent music of the Gilmore Light Ensemble in the White Parlor.

Keith Drews also gets a special valor award for working the sound system, which meant he had to listen to my speech twice.

Finally, thanks to all of who truly made the evening another success. Thanks to Walter DeGroot, Stephanie Edewaard, Marmie Edwards, Lisa Kittinger, Kathie Lipovac, J.B. McCraw, Charlotte Needham, Elene Paul, Jim Pearson, Jo Schoolfield, Lou Smith, Elaine Street and Robyn Vai.

It takes a lot of hard work to make sure everyone has a good time.

Frank Cucurullo
Supervisory Park Ranger

More Open House photos on page 3

Area Special Events

November 6

Washington, DC. Walking tour with living history: Meet spies, soldiers, actors and other "citizens" of Washington and decode a spy message during "Courage! The Civil War in Washington" walking tour. Begins 11 am at Cosi Coffee, 10th and E streets NW. Tickets \$12 adult, \$6 under 12. 301-588-9255 or mail@historicstrolls.com.

Living history, "A Day in 1861," military and civilian life in the early days of the Confederacy at Lee Hall in Newport News, VA at 10 am-4 pm. Free with admission. 757-888-3371 or www.leehall.org.

November 6-7

Living history, "Federals at Mount Bleak!" military and civilian portrayals and demonstrations at Sky Meadows State Park near Delaplane., VA 10 am-4 pm Saturday; 9 am-3 pm Sunday. Free (parking fee charged). www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks/skymeadow.htm or 540-592-3356.

Living history, "Under Fire: The Battle of Harpers Ferry 1862," at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, WV. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/hafe or 304-535-6298.

Living history and special demonstrations, "Americans at War, 1607-2004," includes Civil War at Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg, WV. Free with admission. www.pamplinpark.org or 877-PAMPLIN.

November 10-14

Bus tour, "The Gettysburg Campaign," (DC/PA) a Smithsonian Associates tour with Ed Bearss. Leaves from Washington DC. Details: www.CivilWarStudies.org or 202-786-3276.

November 11

Special program salutes the black Union troops from Tidewater Virginia who fought in the battles of Suffolk, Petersburg and New Market Heights. 11:30 am-2 pm at the Gabriel Chapel AMEZ Church, 2216 Long Ridge Road in Chesapeake. Free. email doctoralexander@blackwordsonline.com or

757-547-5542.

November 12-14

Tour, "Fredericksburg, VA: An Insider's Walking Tour," with Robert K. Krick. A Civil War Education Association tour. \$275. Details: 800-298-1861 or www.cwea.net.

November 13

Living history: Point Lookout "Pilgrimage" to the former prisoner of war camp on the Chesapeake Bay near Scotland, MD. Historical presentations and living history throughout the day. Ceremony honoring the prisoners at the cemetery. All free (except food). 8 am-5 pm. www.plpow.com or 757-989-1928.

Living history, "Camp Life of Confederate Soldiers," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. 11am-3 pm. Free with admission. www.civilwarmed.org or 301-695-1864.

Tour, "Mr. Curtin's City: Harrisburg, PA and the National Civil War Museum," includes battlefield and camp sites in the area. Sponsored by the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars. Details: 717-264-7101 or email chaden@chambersburg.org.

Tour, "Unseen Gettysburg, PA: A Tour and Historical Review of 'Ghost Sightings and other Unexplained Phenomena.'" A Civil War Education Association tour. \$125. Details: 800-298-1861 or www.cwea.net.

November 13-14

Open house, annual event at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, MD, free tours and special merchandise for sale. 301-868-1121 or www.surratt.org for details.

November 19

Anniversary commemoration of the Gettysburg Address in the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA. 10 am. Free. More info, 717-334-1124 extension 422 or www.nps.gov/gett.

November 20

Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremonies in Gettysburg, PA. 1 pm. Free. More info, 717-334-1124 extension 422 or www.nps.gov/gett Luminaria at the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, candles placed on soldier graves. Sponsored by the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg. 717-334-0772 or www.friendsofgettysburg.org.

November 20-21

Civil War Show, hundreds of tables of artifacts, prints and weapons for show and sale at the Richmond Raceway Complex (old state fairgrounds) in Richmond, VA. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9:30 am-3 pm Sunday. \$5. 804-737-5827.

November 26-28

Living history, "A Civil War Santa" and "Breakfast with Santa," at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. Details: or www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org or 866-258-4729

November 28

Lecture, "John Singleton Mosby, the Man," at the Graffiti House Visitor Center on the Brandy Station battlefield north of Culpeper, VA. 2 pm. \$5. 540-727-7718.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please contact Delphine Gross no later than the 20th of each month with availability dates and times to be posted the following month (Please call by November 20th with December information). Even if you are a regularly scheduled VIP please contact Delphine to confirm your availability. Again, the contact number is (703) 235-1530 ext. 227. Please leave the dates and times you are available on the voice mail. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Open House - October 8, 2004



Photos by volunteer
Kathie Lipovac



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House was the home of Robert E. Lee and his family for thirty years and is uniquely associated with the Washington and Custis families. It is now preserved as a memorial to General Lee, who gained the respect of Americans in both the North and the South.

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

Phone
703-235-1530

Web Site
<http://www.nps.gov/arho>

The Spectacle online
<http://www.nps.gov/arho/tour/spectacle.html>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Significant Historic Events in November

November, 1833

North Point, or *Baltimore Defended*, a play by GWP Custis is about the bombardment of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812, was produced in Baltimore after Mr. Custis had rewritten it. Fireworks may have “played a large part in the climatic scenes.”

November, 1834

Mrs. Custis took the steamboat to Old Point Comfort (Fort Monroe), Virginia to bring home her daughter and her first grandchild. Robert E. Lee returned to Arlington later in the month to assume his duties as assistant to General Charles Gratiot, Chief of Engineers, in Washington.

November, 1835

GWP Custis sent historian Jared Sparks the Wollaston portrait of Martha Washington and the Houdon bas-relief of Washington so that they might be copied and then published in Spark’s edition of George Washington letters. Custis suggested that the portraits be exhibited in a Boston gallery to help raise money for the Bunker Hill monument then under construction.

November, 1851

The 125-foot steam ferry, *George Washington Parke Custis*, was launched from a Washington shipyard. Expressly designed to navigate the shallow waters of the Potomac near Arlington, the *Custis* was flat-bottomed and drew only one foot of water. During the Civil War the United States Navy stripped the ferry of its engines and boilers and transformed it into a floating ascension deck for observation balloons—the first such vessel in the world.

November, 1855

The renovation of the White Parlor was nearly complete, and Lee writing from Fort Riley, suggested that a view of (or from) West Point should be hung in that room.

November, 1858

The improvements at Arlington begun by Robert E. Lee were all under way despite his

impatience at his lack of money. Many of the buildings, roads and fences had been repaired, and by winter there would be a new slate roof on the house and a new gravel one on the stable. The mill and the overseer’s house were put back in repair, and stone foundations were laid for a new barn.

November, 1861

A United States Army surgeon wrote that after the vandalism he had witnessed, “it was a pleasurable relief to find [at Arlington House]... respect for the property and furniture...[T]he walls of almost every room in the immense old building are covered with the rich paintings and old family pictures.”

November, 1845 (late)

Eight-year-old W.H.F. “Rooney” Lee cut off two of his fingertips—one down to the first joint—while playing with a straw cutter at the Lee’s home in Fort Hamilton, New York. Mrs. Lee postponed her planned trip to Arlington. Lee himself was gravely concerned that if the fingertips could not be successfully reattached, Rooney would be maimed for life. Though surgery was unsuccessful, the fingers eventually healed so well that they were virtually unnoticed and prove no handicap to Rooney’s future careers.

November 1, 1829

Brevet Second Lieutenant Roberts E. Lee arrived in Savannah, Georgia. His assignment, his first since graduating from West Point, was to assist in the construction of a fort on Cockspur Island—later named Fort Pulaski—for the defense of the city. Lee worked at Cockspur until April 21, 1831, when he was assigned to Old Point Comfort (Fort Monroe), Virginia.

November 5, 1781

John Parke “Jack(ey)” Custis died of “camp fever” at “Eltham” near Yorktown shortly after the British surrender on October 19. According to family tradition, General Washington said, “From this moment I adopt his two youngest children as my own.”

George and Martha Washington raised, GWP and Eleanor “Nellie” Custis, the two younger children.

November 5, 1873

Mrs. Robert E. (Mary Anna Randolph Custis) Lee, 65, died at Lexington, Virginia, 92 years to the day after the death of her grandfather, Jack Custis. Her daughter Agnes had died on October 15, and according to Mildred Lee, she never “railed from this blow.”

November 6, 1850

GWP Custis “escorted Edmond Lafayette, grandson of the Marquis, to Mount Vernon, where he showed him about and told him the tales of the old days there.”

November 6, 1860

Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States. His election was a catalyst for increased secessionist activity in the South. Commenting on the election, the *Charleston Mercury* said, “the tea has been thrown overboard, the revolution of 1860 has been initiated.”

November 8, 1864

One of the last hopes for a negotiated settlement of the War and Confederate independence was dashed by the re-election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States. Lincoln received more than 55% of the popular vote and ten times the electoral votes of his Democratic opponent, Major General George B. McClellan.

November 10, 1785

George Washington wrote in a private letter that both Nellie Custis, 6, and GWP Custis, 4, were “promising children” but that the boy was ‘a remarkable fine one, and my intention is to give him a liberal education; the rudiments of which, shall, if I live, be in my won family.”

November 10, 1850

The German artist Emanuel Leutze thanked GWP Custis for his “most valuable

Significant Historic Events in November (continued)

communications” about George Washington’s army at the time of the Battle of Trenton. Leutze was at work painting “Washington Crossing the Delaware”—one of the most famous and inaccurate of all historical paintings—and promised to send Custis a drawing or a daguerreotype of his work when it was finished.

November 11, 1857

Robert E. Lee, having obtained leave from his command in Texas arrived back at Arlington, two and a half weeks after the death of his father-in-law, GWP Custis. In his memorandum book he wrote, “Found all sad, suffering and sick, and the chair of him who had always recd. me with kindness and affection—vacant.”

November 12, 1810

GWP Custis, writing to E.S. Logan, described his efforts to aid the “little farmer” in breeding and raising a native breed of sheep.

November 15, 1796

George Washington wrote to his ward, GWP Custis a student at the College of New Jersey at Princeton: “It gives me pleasure to hear that you are agreeably fixed. I receive still more from the assurance you give of attending closely to your studies. It is you yourself who is to derive immediate benefit from there. Your country may do it hereafter.”

November 21, 1826

In an installment of his *Recollection of Washington* entitled “His Portrait,” GWP Custis described the General’s appearance and physique. “Most portraits of the General, he said, made him appear too bulky, instead of tall and lean. Describing Washington’s physical prowess as a horseman and athlete, he told how the General had once thrown a piece of *slate* the size and shape of a silver dollar across the Rappahannock River below Fredericksburg.”

November 22, 1857

Writing to Harriet Talcott, Mrs. Lee

described her second child, Mary Lee Custis, as “a clear brunette with brown hair, very fine large black eyes, and a perfect little mouth and respectable nose and is perfectly fat and healthy.” She also mentioned, however, that she had been bedridden for almost four months after giving birth to Mary on July 12.

November 22, 1918

Mary Custis Lee, 83, died at Homestead Hotel, Hot Springs, Virginia eleven days after the signing of the Armistice which ended World War I.

November 24, 1809

In a notice published in the *National Intelligencer*, GWP Custis announced that “in addition to the usual awards at the next sheep-shearing, the family that had made the greatest quantity of clothing at home during the previous year at the Arlington mill. The same privilege would go also to the farmer who had ‘manured the most land from his own resources in the last 12 months’—perhaps the first award of its kind ever made in America. There would also be a prize awarded for the most practical ‘National Military Dress’ displayed.”

November 24, 1810

The *National Intelligencer* published extracts from an address of GWP Custis in which he advocated soil conservation, national self-sufficiency, a National Board of Agriculture, and an “Order of Washington” to recognize those who “shall do some good to mankind, either in the progress of national aggrandizement, or productive industry.”

November 24, 1860

From his post in Texas, Robert E. Lee wrote to his son Custis that the “Southern States seem to be in a convulsion and confidence in their securities shaken. It is difficult to see what will be the result, but I hope all will end well...My little personal troubles sink into insignificance when I contemplate the condition of the country, and I feel as if I could easily lay down my life for its safety. But I also feel that would bring but little

good.”

In the same letter Lee expressed regret that Montgomery Meigs had been removed from his engineering position in Washington because of what Lee believed to be a feud between officers. “I know Meigs to be capable and qualified.”

November 25, 1963

President John F. Kennedy was buried on the hillside below Arlington House after being assassinated in Dallas, Texas on November 22nd.

November 27, 1855

Having finished court-martial duty at Fort Riley, Kansas, Lee received orders to sit on another court-martial board at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Since he was coming back east, he had time to visit his family and arrived at Arlington on the 26th. For the first time, Lee saw how the “big room” had been transformed into the White Parlor.

November 28, 1862

General Lee asked his wife to “arrange for the people whom I wish to liberate the 31 December...Perry, Billy and such of those as are at the White House as wish it or who can support themselves, must be included. Indeed I should like to include the whole list at Arlington, White House, and c., if it can be done so as to finish the business.”

November 30, 1859

Robert E. Lee arrived at Harper’s Ferry about noon to command troops ordered to guard the arsenal from threatened attack during and after the scheduled execution of John Brown on December 2 at Charlestown, ten miles away. “At Harper’s Ferry nothing more exciting happened than the arrival of Brown’s body and its transshipment to Philadelphia.” Lee and the troops were returned to their respective stations on December 12. “The country continued to debate bitterly the rights and wrongs of Brown’s attempt, but the affair seems to have affected Lee very little.”

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Usually the recipe chosen for this newsletter is one that was used during the 19th century or an adaptation of one. This month, by special request, I am including one that actually did not exist in its recognized form until 1930, when it was invented "by accident", by Ruth Graves Wakefield.

Mrs. Wakefield graduated from Framingham State Normal School Department of Household Arts (Massachusetts) in 1924. After graduation she worked as a dietician and food lecturer. In 1930, Mrs. Wakefield and her husband, Kenneth Wakefield purchased a Cape-Cod style toll house located between Boston and New Bedford, MS. This establishment was originally built in 1709 and served as place of rest, meals and where passengers paid tolls.

The Wakefields decided to continue with the tradition established in the 1700's and created an inn called the Toll House Inn where guests stayed and enjoyed home-cooked meals. Their guests came from all over New England.

One of Mrs. Wakefield's standard recipes was called Butter Drop Do cookies. But, one day, when she was out of baker's chocolate, she substituted a semi-sweet chocolate candy bar made by Nestle, cut up into pieces, and added to the dough. Rather than melting into the baking cookies, the chunks held their shape.

The cookies quickly became very popular with guests and her recipe appeared in a Boston newspaper. Sales of Nestle candy bars increased dramatically and soon the candy was sold in chip form, with Mrs. Wakefield's recipe appearing on each package. The agreement between Mrs. Wakefield and Nestle provided her with chocolate for the remainder of her life. Thus the Toll-House Cookie came into being.

The Wakefields sold their inn in 1966 and it burned in 1984. Mrs. Wakefield passed away in 1977.

In searching for a version of the recipe to include here, I found literally a dozen or more. Some included sour cream, vanilla pudding, melted chocolate, white chocolate and any number of other ingredients not included in Mrs. Wakefield's original butter cookie recipe. The recipe I chose is a traditional one that I believe Mrs. Wakefield would recognize.

Chocolate Chip Cookies

3/4 cup white sugar
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup butter
1T vanilla
2 eggs, slightly beaten
3 cups flour
¾ t baking soda
¾ t salt
3 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, combine sugars; add in butter and cream together with the sugar. Add vanilla and eggs; mix together. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda, salt and add to the creamed mixture. Mix well; the dough will be stiff. Add the chocolate chips and nuts (if using).

Line cookie sheets with wax paper, or grease cookie sheets. Drop dough by spoonfuls onto cookie sheets and bake about 8 - 10 minutes. Cool cookies on wire racks.

Information for this article is from Google.com.

The Spectacle is now online

The current issue of The Spectacle is now online. Back issues for 2004 are also available. Now is your chance to review old 'recipes of the month' and stories concerning volunteers at Arlington House.

You can access the online Spectacle at <http://www.nps.gov/arho/tour/spectacle.html>. You can click on any of the issues listed and it will open a PDF file on your computer. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the files. If you do not have Adobe Reader, a link is available so that you can download this program, which will allow you to view the files.

The monthly volunteer schedule will also be available online at <http://www.nps.gov/arho/tour/spectacle/arhovipcalendar.pdf>. Once again, this is a PDF file requiring Adobe Reader. You may want to bookmark these web pages for quick and easy access.

Sewers Needed

Needed: volunteers who can sew! Both machine and hand sewing.
We have purchased white curtain panels to replace the existing ones in Arlington House. The panels need a casing at the top for the curtain rod and to be hemmed. They also need to be labelled as to in which window they hang. If you are interested in helping measure windows, measure and cut new curtains, iron, pin, hem and help put the curtains back up, please call Mary Troy, ARHO Museum Curator, at 703-235-1535.
Please note - this will be a winter project, dates to be determined.

November 2004

Arlington House VIP Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	2 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00 Arlene Riley 1:00-3:00 (Training)	3	4 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	5 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	6
7 Elene Paul 10:00-3:00 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	8 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	9 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	10 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00 Lou Smith and Stephanie Edewaard 12:30-3:30	11 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	12 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30 Elene Paul 12:30-4:30	13 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30
14 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	15 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	16 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	17 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	18 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	19 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	20 Vanna Lewis 10:00-4:30 Lisa Kittinger 11:00-4:30 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30
21 Elene Paul 10:00-3:00 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	22 Jo Schoolfield 10:00-2:00 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	23 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	24 Jack McKay 9:30-12:30 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	25 Thanksgiving	26 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	27 J.B. McCraw 12:30-4:30
28 Elene Paul 10:00-3:00 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	29 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	30 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30 Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00				

If you are available to volunteer, but are not on the calendar please call Delphine so you can be added to the schedule.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

<<Name>>
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Spectacle is a monthly newsletter for the volunteers of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

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Comments? Write to:

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c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
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Volunteers Needed

The roster of active volunteers is in dire need of additional names! If you know anyone interested in joining our ranks please refer them to Delphine Gross, Volunteer Coordinator (703) 235-1530 ext 227.

